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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.7, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

2. The conference servicing of the Convention bodies, namely, the Committee for the Review of the Convention (third session) and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (seventh session and meetings of subsidiary bodies) in the biennium 2004-2005 would require an amount of $1.4 million on a full-cost basis at current rates.

3. In addition to the provisions for the full cost of conference-servicing requirements mentioned above, the expenses for the travel of conference-servicing staff from Geneva to Bonn to service the meetings are estimated at $325,400. Thus,

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total additional costs under the United Nations regular budget for servicing the meetings are estimated at $1,725,400.

4. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned are implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities must be deferred to a later biennium.

5. Additional provisions would be required over and above the resources initially proposed for the biennium 2004-2005 ($1,725,400). It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium to meet the additional requirement of $1,725,400.